MATWATCH

16 Robin Hood Lane Jackson TN 38305

HALLOWEEN HAVOC SPECIAL EDITION

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Despite Imposter

STING SURVIVES IMPERSONATOR TO RETAIN NWA BELT AT HAVOC

By STEVE BEVERLY
MATWATCH Editor/Publisher

CHICAGO----For 90 seconds, 9,000 fans at the University of Illinois-Chicago Pavillion believed Sid Vicious had won the NWA world heavyweight championship Saturday night. But a Sting impersonator was "discovered" by referee Nick Patrick and the real Sting small-packaged Vicious in 13:39 to retain the title in the main event of HALLOWEEN HAVOC.

Sting showed more mobility in this conflict than in most of his post-knee operation matches to date. And while Vicious' limitations appeared in portions of the match, the false finish added a twist which fit the show's Halloween motif.

Sid attacked Sting early when the champion turned his back and tried two backbreakers but Sting didn't sell the second. The champ went for a Scorpion but failed.

Vicious then sailed over the top on a splash try and Sting railed him and soon posted Sid. Sting then slowed the pace for a wristlock until Sid scored with two stiff clotheslines. A Sting rally was stifled by a Vicious powerslam for a 1 1/2 count and Sting then missed a Stinger splash.

Sid took it to the runway for clotheslines and two bodyslams but as he returned to the ring to mug for the fans, Sting flew over the ropes onto Sid's back for a dramatic rally, then with Sid outside, followed with his Sting fly over the top onto Sid.

At the 10:00 mark, Ric Flair and Arn Anderson came to ringside and distracted referee Nick Patrick while Sting chased Vicious to the tunnel. When the two returned, an amazing Sting lookalike tried to slam Vicious, who fell on his opponent for a pin and the apparent upset at 11:49. The balloons in the U.I.C. Pavillion fell and Vicious was given the belt before a stunned house.

But the real Sting emerged (unbeknownst to many in the Pavillion, see CHICAGO CHATTER, page 3) and Patrick, realizing what had happened, ordered the match restarted and Sting quickly packaged Vicious for the win to retain the belt at 13:39.

MATCH RATING: DRAW....possibly even a DRAW-PLUS for the false finish. The restart was not a new Ole Anderson trick but the imposter ending was one I had never seen him use. I can tell you the entire building was stunned when it appeared Sid had won it.

HANSEN DECKS LUGER TO WIN U.S. TITLE

CHICAGO---All-Japan Triple Crown champion Stan Hansen decked Lex Luger with a powerful clothesline to the neck to win the NWA U.S. heavyweight championship Saturday night in 9:28.

The HALLOWEEN HAVOC semifinal broke into an early brawl as Hansen scored a quick 2-count, threw Luger outside and posted Lex. But a Luger rally sent Hansen out with an over-the-top bump off a turnbuckle.

Mid-match, Hansen scored with a snap suplex, elbow and bulldog while Luger rallied for a dropkick and near-fall slam.

With the two battling in a corner, Hansen elbowed referee Pee Wee Anderson. While Pee Wee was down, Danny ("I'm Back Again") Spivey tossed a cowbell bullrope to Hansen. Luger ducked it and appeared to have Hansen in hand but as Anderson recovered, Hansen creamed Luger just below the ear and took the pin in 9:28.

MATCH RATING: DRAW-PLUS...good but not as strong as anticipated.

(MATWATCH Editor/Publisher Steve Beverly was in Chicago for HALLOWEEN HAVOC. Coverage continues on Pages 2 and 3.)

More HALLOWEEN HAVOC

DOOM, STEINERS HANG ONTO TAG TEAM BELTS IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO----DOOM's Ron Simmons and Butch Reed held onto the NWA world tag team championship here Saturday night in 18:20 of a brawling double count-out against former NWA world champion Ric Flair and NWA TV champ Arn Anderson.

In a U.S. tag team title bout which had as much crowd heat as any event of HALLOWEEN HAVOC, Rick and Scott Steiner retained their belts in 14:28, thanks to a Scott Steiner Frankensteiner on Brian Knobbs.

DOOM VS. FLAIR/ANDERSON

The story of the first nine minutes centered around Simmons and Reed being impervious to Flair's chops. Simmons also refused to sell an early Arn suplex, rallied for a double clothesline on both Horsemen and Teddy Long, chased inside by Flair, slapped the ex-champ. DOOM was impressive until Arn elbowed Simmons and Flair kneed him to the head at 9:05, followed by a spinebuster. The Horsemen then controlled the next seven minutes and the match produced eight two-counts. Simmons, in deep trouble, was tossed out at 15:00 and Flair tried to rail him but Ron reversed to rail Ric and clothesline him. Arn tagged in for a headcracker at 16:00 but all four finally entered and a brawl went to the outside to the dressing room for a double countout at 18:20. POWERSLAM....memorable moment when Flair did his over-the-top flip and knocked Jackie Crockett's camera out of his hand.

STEINERS VS. NASTY BOYS

The belt-attack angle last month in Chicago really worked up the local fans who were armed for bear against the Nasties. The brawl started off the top. The Nasties used chairs and the Steiners used a powerslam, a suplex off the top rope and Rick's devastating bulldog off the top. We had 11 two-counts here but at 8:38, Scott was stuff-piledriven. Saggs went for a Boston crab and Knobbs a camel clutch. Scott spent the latter half of the match in trouble until he tagged in Rick at 12:28. All four came in and Scott was thrown over the top and doubleslammed on the floor but he rallied to post Saggs and re-entered for the Frankensteiner to end it at 14:28. After, the Nasties threw Nick Patrick out and pelted Scott with the belts again and posted Rick twice. POWERSLAM-PLUS....as much crowd heat as you'd want at any big show.

HALLOWEEN HAVOC HEADLINES

ROCK & RICH EXPRESS D. MIDNIGHT EXPRESS (20:47): Tremendous opener. Lots of pro-M Ex fans and Bobby & Stan had on their working shoes while Morton sold more than oat bran in a GNC store. Tommy & Ricky applies a double sea-horse early and Morton decked Corny, who milked it. Crowd about 65-35 for M Ex, who controlled most of first 20.

Eaton applied a legdrop from the top rope onto Ricky at 18:00 and Lane followed with a martial arts demo until Morton kneed Bobby on a rocketlauncher try at 19:18.

Tommy tagged in for a near-fall on a Thesz press. Corny bashed Rich with a racked off the top rope. But the Southern Boys arrived in preppy outfits, holding their own rackets. With the ref, Cornette and Bobby distracted, Tommy grabbed a racket and bashed Lane for the pin at 20:47. POWERSLAM.

TERRY TAYLOR D. BILL IRWIN (11:47): No one in Chicago wanted to see Irwin and lots of BOR-RING chants from six minutes in. But the match had 14 two-counts and a number of crisp maneuvers, although it also had too many restholds and went about four to five minutes too long. Taylor won when he scissored Bill into a cradle after an Irwin spine- buster. RESTHOLD...for the wrestling, even with hostile crowd.

(ANGLE) STING-BLACK SCORPION: As Sting is interviewing with Tony (Phantom of the Opera) Schiavone, the Black Scorpion appears & grabs a WCW female crew member. T.B.S. takes her into a cage, which is covered with a cloth and as smoke goes poof, does a David Copperfield disappearing act. A bewildered Sting gives chase but T.B.S. shows on the other side of the stage and lets the woman, who flies into Sting's arms (a la King Kong/Fay Wray) go.

BRAD ARMSTRONG D. J.W. STORM (5:04): Storm had some supporters, based on his past Chicago indie work. Brad, in

MORE HALLOWEEN HAVOC HEADLINES

my view, remains one of the best pure performers in the game but the Candyman gimmick is just not getting over. He entered to little response. J.W. just didn't work well with him and after badly missing a rolling reverse, Brad simply inside cradled Storm for the win at 5:04. BOMB-PLUS.

MASTER BLASTERS D. SOUTHERN BOYS (7:43): As good as Tracy and Steve are, outside the South, they are not going to get a big pop with the Rebel gimmick. Steve dropkicked Blade in the head for a two-count early but about three minutes in, Jim Cornette left the announce table to join the Blasters' corner. Steve had powerslammed and dropkicked Steel and scored with a double shoulderblock. But Corny distracted the ref and Blade clotheslined Steve and Steel scored the pin at 7:43. But Corny, in a Union outfit, is cornered by the Boys, bodyslammed and Tracy spanked him. RESTHOLD.

FREEBIRDS D. RENEGADE WARRIORS (17:17): Honestly, this was not nearly as tough a night on the heels as was last year in Philadelphia but lots of boos went up when Chris went to play his tom-tom 2 minutes in. Youngbloods controlled first nine minutes but as the match evolved, 'Birds gained more crowd momentum with big chants of "D-D-T" throughout the house at 12:00. At 17:00, Youngbloods chased in Little Richard Marley and Chris had Jimmy Garvin rolled up for the win but Michael applied the DDT and Jimmy scored the pin and the 'Birds left with a big face reax. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

JUNKYARD DOG D. MOONDOG REX (3:22): I suppose this was after Steiners-Nasty Boys to give fans some cooldown time before the other title matches. JYD came out with a voodoo Moondog mask on. About what you'd expect. Rex used the bone at 1:54 but JYD headbutted for the pin at 3:22. BOMB.

(ANGLE) SCOTT STEINER-NASTY BOYS: Shortly after the U.S. tag title match, Scott Steiner came out for an interview with Schiavone. A man with a beard carrying Cokes appeared from a corner of the stage. You guessed it. He bashed Scotty with the Coke crate and the Nasties worked over Scott for nearly a minute onstage, which is bound to keep the feud alive.

PRE-BROADCAST MATCHES

TIM HORNER D. BARRY HOROWITZ (8:34): A few crowd jumps for this one in spurts but no intense heat. Still, there was decent wrestling and Tim scored the win in 8:34. This one kicked it off at 5:36 p.m. before the PPV audience joined. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

RENO RIGGINS D. RIP ROGERS (6:56): Rogers was one of Ole's favorites when he lost his SuperStation slot to Vince in 1985 and was kicked to the mornings. But I'll be honest. I've never seen Riggins win a match until this one and I still get a kick out of seeing a jobber pull one off. Reno won it with a flying cross body block at 6:56. RESTHOLD... cameras were rolling. I hope it's eventually shown.

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CHICAGO CHATTER

As of this writing (Sunday night), I have not seen the TV show (we'll review next week) after a 500-mile drive home but few people could have seen the show live and not been impressed. Production values were first-rate, the entrances were strong and even though a few of the matches were not crowd exploders, this was more than a one-match show and that Steiners-Nasties reaction was deafening....Reports are very positive on Paul E. Dangerously's first shot at a PPV color slot. Paul was sick the day before the show, probably as much from nerves as anything....Abetted by my TORCH colleague Wade Keller, big chants of "Paul E." went up at ringside before the show (with no "SUX" after)....Jim Ross made a great gangster with the yellow hat and black shirt and Paul as Dracula and Schiavone as the Phantom were a delight for the theme....A couple of reported TV glitches: one bit of audio feedback when Paul E.'s mike was up in house as well as on the air and after one of Missy Hyatt's good fairy segs, you could hear her ask the crew, "Well, are we finished? How was that, guys?"....Rode to the show with Lance ("Chokehold") Levine and the GAG man, himself, Jeff Zinger and his lady. A real treat to meet Wade face-to-face, along with MATWATCHers Dennis Kuczajda, Dan Curtis and John Pinzker, and John Lanigan, I tried to get to you and the crowd crush was too great. ....As of Sunday night, MATWATCH had received 82 calls on the show, 77 positive, four negative and one so-so....My former fellow Georgian Steve Sims makes a great host for events like this and I hope at STARRCADE, Steve and I can sit down for a meal....Several sustained chants of "L.O.D." from crowd during Master Blasters' match....Peddler selling Ultimate Warrior pics outside Pavillion after the show....Crowd estimated at 9,000 and probably a $130,000 gate....Had been some talk Barry Windham would show up here but I'm still told he will be back. Whether this signals a full-time return for Danny Spivey is anybody's guess. He'd told insiders at a recent UWF taping, he had no intention to come back to the NWA....In retrospect, the Hansen-Luger finish didn't have as much impact, in my view, because the clothesline has become so much a cliche in wrestling and even though Stan is the guy who trademarked it early as The Lariat, it's almost too repetitive to be credible as enough to beat Luger....One female fan was asked not to display signs reading, "BRING BACK THE CRISPY CRUISER" and "GARY JUSTER SUCKS." I have no idea of the reason for the latter....With a couple of exceptions the crowd was sustained here far better than at WRESTLE WAR in Greensboro and the people were really up for the opener, though I'm told the TV audio didn't really register the intensity of the crowd....Chicago is an absolutely wonderful city to visit, even if you're not going to wrestling. It was my second time in the Windy City and it lived up to its name this weekend....Jack Brickhouse received a polite welcome in the pre-show but many of the locals are wearying of his stories of old-timers. He mentioned Verne Gagne three times during his stint at the mike with Jim & Paul. FSB.

TV TEMPO
Oct. 22-28

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Billy Black/Mr. Wrestling d. Mike Winner/Ravishing Russ; (From 5-STAR) Sam Houston d. Nasty Ned Brady; (CLASSIC) Wild Red Berry d. Cyclone Anaya; Steve Lawler d. Randy Rose; Ga. Express d. Death Row; Nick Busich d. Joel Deaton by DQ when Unholy Alliance runs in. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND) - [WORLD WIDE]: Brian Pillman/Tom Zenk d. Gil Canatella/Hassan Farouk; J.W. Storm d. John Peterson; Mike Rotunda d. Chuck Coates; Juicer d. Todd Brewer; Midnight Express d. Mike Freeman/Dave Taylor; Junkyard Dog d. Barry Horowitz; Nasty Boys d. Pablo Crenshaw/Mark Wright. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: M Ex d. Reno Riggins/Joe Barrett; Trucker Norm d. Tony Burton; Storm d. Scott Allen; (DANGER ZONE) Tommy Rich/Terry Taylor; Rotunda d. Death Row; Rich/Taylor d. Moondog Rex/Horowitz. RESTHOLD.

(USWA) - [CHALLENGE]: {Round 1 of USWA CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY} John Tatum d. King Cobra; Austin Idol d. Gary Young; Terry Funk d. Brickhouse Brown; Steve Keirn d. Tony Anthony. DRAW-PLUS.
[BEST OF CHAMPIONSHIP]: Danny Davis/Joey Maggs d. Twilight Zone; (VIDEO) Jeff Jarrett-Eddie Gilbert studio blood angle; (6-MAN) Internationals d. Jeff Gaylord/Ken Raper/Keith Haynes; USWA tourney recap w. Dave Brown; (VIDEO) Earlier Lawler-Idol match. DRAW.

(LPWA) - Bambi d. Lelani Kai; Magnificent Mimi d. Denise Storm; Heidi Lee Morgan/Misty Blue Simmes d. Rusty Thomas/Despina Montanagas. RESTHOLD.

(ICW) - Bruiser Brody d. Alan Adams; Hercules Ayala d. Milton; Al Perez d. Tony Savitch; Buddy Rose/Doug Summers d. Tim Field/Pablo Crenshaw; Sgt. Slaughter d. Boris Zhukov by DQ; Ric Flair d. Austin Idol (correct); (ICW TITLE/7th rerun) Vic Steamboat d. Tony Atlas. NO RATING OFFERED.

(PORTLAND) - [2 Wks. Ago]: C.W. Bergstrom d. Brad Anderson on reversal when fans tell ref Brad had leg on ropes. Brad then hangs C.W. with lariat. Steve (Bart) Sawyer, Larry Oliver, Scott Norton save.; Sawyer d. Al Madril & Al has to toss out $50 of his pay to kids when Norton, Larry, Bergstrom come out w. belts to make Al toss out cash; Norton d. Grappler by DQ when Grap slams Norton & ref together; Rip Oliver d. Equalizer by DQ when Grap runs in & nails Rip w. loaded boot but Larry saves & Olivers chase heels; Larry Oliver d. Doug Masters; (ANGLE) Anderson clotheslines Sawyer w. lariat, takes his money & rips up Bart Simpson cutout of Steve's. DRAW-PLUS.
[Last Week]: Norton d. Madril by DQ; (PACIFIC NW TAG TITLE) Olivers d. Grappler/Equalizer by DQ when Grap hits Rip w. Equalizer's chain; John Rambo d. Ricky Santana by DQ; Masters d. Bergstrom; (LARIAT POLE MATCH) Anderson vs. Sawyer in progress as show ends. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Steiners d. Farouk/Horowitz; M Ex d. Tim Parker/Riggins; (WNN) Gordon Solie's final HALLOWEEN HAVOC preview; Taylor d. Italian Stallion; State Patrol d. Greg Sawyer/Mark White; Ric Flair/Arn Anderson d. Rotunda/Tim Horner; (LOUISVILLE SLUGGER) Jim Cornette w. Nasty Boys. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

[WCW]: Southern Boys d. Chuck Coates/Bill Ford; (WRAPUP) Gordon's final HAVOC preview; Rock & Rich Express d. Joe Cezana/Stallion; Storm d. Terrence Blaylock; Zenk d. Tom Burke; Horner/Rotunda d. State Patrol; Allen Iron Eagle d. Bob Andrews; Horowitz d. Tommy Angel; (ANGLE) Dennis A. Brent presents WRESTLING WRAPUP Special Achievement Award to S. Boys for earlier upset of M Ex. Cornette comes out in a rage, calls Brent a "dwarf" & taunts S. Boys but Steve Armstrong pushes Corny on his hiney; JYD/El Gigante d. Kamikazi/El Diablo; Trucker Norm d. Keith Hart. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - Tony Anthony/Doug Gilbert d. Ben Jordan/Todd Morton; (MID-SOUTH COLISEUM) [USWA TAG TITLE] Anthony/Gilbert d. Brickhouse/Davis when Dirty White Girl shoots spray into Brick's face; Jerry Lawler d. M.C. Jammer & decks Downtown Bruno after; (SEGMENT) Bruno puts up his hair if Lawler beats his "secret weapon" Monday night; (MID-SOUTH) Jeff Jarrett d. Eddie Gilbert by DQ in bloodbath when Anthony runs in & pullapart erupts; (SEGMENT) Eddie accuses Dave Brown of getting "padded paycheck" from Jerry Jarrett to run down Gilberts; (MID-S/6-MAN) Lawler/Bill & Jamie Dundee d. Internationals & Jamie juices big-time after; Jarrett vs. Davis no contest when Doug Gilbert jumps Davis & Eddie Gilbert bashes Jarrett w. chair. Sam Lowe & Eddie work over Jeff & Eddie sprays Jarrett w. yellow paint on back. Davis juices after being Doug posts him. Ken Wayne goes to bathroom as Davis battered; (VIDEO) Dick Murdoch; Wayne d. Todd Johnson; (ANGLE) Brick brings out Icy Hot, who gets into catfight with DWG until Brick & Tony separate. DRAW-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND) - [SUPERSTARS]: *SPECIAL NOTE: Because of WWF affiliate, WMTU-TV, in my area going off air for a full 2 hours Saturday morning, we are unable to offer results.*
[CHALLENGE]: Legion of Doom d. Alan Reynolds/Tom Stone; Barbarian d. Reno Riggins; Shane Douglas d. Paul Diamond; (From SNME) Hulk Hogan/Tugboat d. Rhythm & Blues & get into brawl w. Dino Bravo/Earthquake Tenta after; Kerry Von Erich d. Doug Vines; Jim Duggan d. Sword; Power & Glory d. Red Tyler/Kevin Krueger. RESTHOLD.

TUBE TALK

Because of our on-scene Chicago coverage of HALLOWEEN HAVOC, TV TEMPO is abbreviated this week....Cornette angle with Southern Boys was the Corny of old and that's what we've needed more of....Joel Goodhart has Greg Valentine booked for an upcoming indie show and may well have Ronnie Garvin set after January....Can you believe ICW running a Flair-Idol match of old?

Most speculation centered on Steve Williams as Lawler's opponent Monday night. Bruno's description of the "all-American" as his secret weapon fit Doc to a tee, plus Eddie raised Williams to #3 in the top 10 without him ever wrestling in Memphis....A Ken Wayne-Danny Davis feud is certain to start up after Saturday WMC show....Correspondent Greg Anderson reports the Oct. 20 PORTLAND show one of the best in a while but Saturday night's tailed off badly....In one other Memphis match Monday, Dick Murdoch was to team with Bill Dundee in a handicap against the Internationals....Eddie has moved into a Memphis apartment now that he's booking. FSB.

YOU'RE FIRED, I QUIT: WWF is furious with me and Dave Meltzer and other sheets because of our reports on Rick Rude's quitting. Titan officials say Rude is still under contract (which is correct) and "can't quit" as long as he remains that way (which is arguable).

THE EXPLANATION: The story of Rude's "suspension" on WWF TV Saturday was not in time for the Chicago fans, who don't get their shows until Sunday, one night after a show Rude was plugged for at the Rosemont Horizon.

AND STILL MORE...: A number of us are being accused of discrediting the WWF as dishonest ("What if Rude and Vince settle things and he comes back?" is a question we're getting, which certainly could happen) to which I say, the guy walked out on the company Oct. 2 and to get into semantics over whether he quit or is breaching contract is like when hospital officials, who laid off 150 employees in Savannah GA, called my reporters liars because the hospital claimed it was a "reduction in force," not layoffs. Yeah, sure.

ONE LAST THING: Just for the record, we have jumped on the NWA when the truth wasn't the most important item (a la the Midnight Express "title win in St. Louis" recently), on some of Herb Abrams' pre-UWF claims of bookers and wrestlers as well as the WWF's Rude tapdance.

SWS TOUR: Jeff Jarrett reportedly did well on the tour but the overall wrestling was weak. We're told, however, their initial TV production was first rate and drew an 8-plus rating on a Sunday night. The show aired on a top indie in Tokyo opposite the networks.

BEER DECISION: Expect the Memphis Stadium Board to decide on whether the Mid-South Coliseum will revive beer sales on wrestling nights next week. The betting line is if Lawler continues to insist to keep it out, it will stay out.

BAD NIGHT IN MEMPHIS: However, beer or not, last Monday night's show at Mid-South drew a dismal $4,700. It may have been the worst Memphis house of the year, three weeks after the $21,000 high.

BIG BACKOUT: Among other problems, Mark Callous was a no-show for his USWA title match against Jerry Lawler, which had been much-plugged. The Memphis people say Vince McMahon told Mark to back out, with his WWF debut barely four weeks off.

THE SUB: As a sub, Lawler went against the "Big O" jobber (who went under a hood) in a quickie. Then, the Lawler/Jamie & Bill Dundee vs. Internationals 6-man followed. I simply do not understand why a promotion takes its so-called "world" title match and makes it a semifinal to an "extra added attraction" where the champion wrestles two straight bouts. It clearly dilutes the title, the main event and the champion.

GASHING A GUSHER: Jamie Dundee bladed too well in the finale. He dug a 4-inch cut into his forehead and opened several small arteries. It took a couple of minutes for the guys to realize Jamie wasn't milking it and he was rushed to first aid behind the arena. When that couldn't stop the bleeding, Jamie was sent to Baptist Central Hospital for treatment.

MATWATCHING

THIS MONDAY: As of midweek, it appeared the main event Monday night was to be Dick Murdoch vs. Lawler. And while Murdoch wasn't a letdown in the tourney, they're going to have to go a long way to sell this one.

TITAN/JAPAN TALKS: Akio Sato and J.J. Dillon had two meetings with New Japan, along with the SWS, in an effort to do another joint venture. But the New Japan people apparently would rather work with the NWA because they see the Titan deal as too expensive.

THE OTHER UNION: Riki Choshu prefers working with the NWA and this is a likely reason why Keiiji Muto and Masa Chono are coming in for the STARRCADE international tag tournament.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER: Good friend Steve Sims, whom we enjoyed seeing again in Chicago, spent weekend before last in Mexico City for the Lucha Libre cards. Steve reported the town was so wrestling-hot, at least 14 cards were going on around the city Sunday night with more than 400 wrestlers working and two of the shows drew more than 10,000.

NO TUBE: Ironically, the crowds were drawn without any TV to hype them, which makes one wonder about how the inverse is happening in the U.S. Steve was almost interviewed on the Galavision show by its announcer, Dr. Alphonso Morales but that was nixed when Morales realized Steve couldn't speak much Spanish.

LET'S BE FRIENDS: Herb Abrams made a call to Joe Pedicino last week in an effort to get Joe's Kongi Sports to work in unison with the UWF. Joe was non-committal.

DEALS, DEALS: Abrams contends he has a leg up on Pedicino, saying NBC International is going to syndicate his UWF shows overseas.

MORE HERB: Our friend and FLASHBACK contributor, Dr. Mike (The Wrestling Dentist) Lano spent some time with Abrams at his last taping and reported Herb to be very gracious. "Herb feels hurt by the criticism he's taken in the sheets and admits his naivete got him in trouble at the (New York) press conference, mentioning (Blackjack) Mulligan (as booker) and (Bruiser) Brody (as a wrestler)."

AND FINALLY: Mike went on to tell us Abrams says he "is working on syndication every day, is hopefully lined up on the JOE FRANKLIN SHOW (WWOR) with Bruno (Sammartino) and Lou (Albano) and says 'just hiring Bruno and Lou lend credibility to our efforts.'"

A RUDE AWAKENING: Abrams has told others he was escorting Rick Rude to the Holyfield-Douglas fight last Thursday night and says he has lawyers who will be able to get Rude out of any contract he has with the WWF and deliver him to the UWF.

THE SHOW ITSELF: Next week, we'll offer a thorough review of UWF TV shows on their own but as a preview, I will concur that the graphics and interviews are well-produced but it's painful to listen to the commentary.

OWENWATCH: Owen Hart is a certainty for the NWA by January but won't be able to return from Austria for STARRCADE.

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME RALLIES BACK TO TOP OF RATINGS

Despite the WWF's usual fall ratings erosion, the NWA suffered more of a drop for the week ending Oct. 22, sending PRIME TIME WRESTLING back to the top of the Nielsen cable ratings heap.

PRIME TIME posted a 2.8 rating and 4.2 per cent share of audience to lead cable shows, followed closely by the 2.7/7.8 of ALL-AMERICAN WRESTLING the day before.

The NWA, in a week just prior to a pay-per-view show, was not helped in three avenues: POWER HOUR was pre-empted by TBS Oct. 19 and both WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and NWA MAIN EVENT experienced audience drops.

WCW, bucking a strong Notre Dame-Miami game on CBS and the Alabama-Tennessee thriller on ESPN, fell 11% from its previous week's numbers, and dipped to a 2.5.

NWA MAIN EVENT, which has hovered at 2.5 and under during most of the fall, could only muster a 2.3 rating for its lackluster Renegade Warriors/Allen Iron Eagle vs. Freebirds/Mystery Partner (Barry Horowitz) main event, which featured Horowitz's first-ever NWA television victory.

The most solid increase came from the early Saturday showing of NME, which scored a strong 1.1 and 9.4% share for its 7:05 a.m. (EDT) slot.

CABLE

Week Ending Oct. 22	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 10/22)	2.8	4.2	1.51 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 10/21)	2.7	7.8	1.45 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 10/20)	2.5	5.2	1.40 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 10/21)	2.3	4.3	1.29 million
NWA MAIN EVENT (R) (TBS 10/20)	1.1	9.4	616,000

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Plays Norse God

LUGER, NOT LUTHOR VISITS SUPERBOY

ORLANDO----Finally capitalizing on a ring name which closely resembles the archenemy of comic hero Superman, NWA U.S. champion Lex Luger (Larry Pfohl) has taken his character to television drama.

Luger filmed an episode of the weekend syndicated series SUPERBOY, based on the D.C. Comics character, last week at the film center here.

The five-year wrestling veteran, whose career launched in the Sunshine State, plays a Norse god who becomes involved in helping Superboy as the episode's plot develops.

The segment is scheduled to be shown in early November on the show, aired at various weekend time periods across the country.

Luger is the second NWA performer to make a national appearance in the last two weeks. Paul E. Dangerously's guest shot on SALLY JESSY RAPHAEL aired Tuesday.

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